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Letter dated 1 April 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon the instructions of my Government, I am transmitting herewith the Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia on the aggression carried out against Artsakh in April 2016 (see annex).

I kindly request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 31, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Zohrab **Mnatsakanyan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 1 April 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

1 April 2017

It has been a year since Azerbaijan's April aggression against Artsakh.

During four days of April 2016 Azerbaijan conducted the same type of aggressive actions and barbarism against the population of Artsakh that it carried out for about four years in the beginning of 1990s, when it tried to deprive the people of Nagorno-Karabakh of their right to live in their homeland and to exercise their RIGHT to self-determination.

We pay tribute to the memory of all heroes who fell repelling the attack of Azerbaijan against Artsakh and who gave their lives to prevent mass atrocities against the people of Nagorno-Karabakh.

While the international community was condemning the gross violations of International Humanitarian Law by the Azerbaijani armed forces, Baku was praising the acts of barbarism and their perpetrators.

Azerbaijan's adventurism severely damaged the peace process.

On May 16 in Vienna, upon the initiative of the United States Secretary of State, and on June 20 in St. Petersburg, at the invitation of the President of Russia, the meetings of the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan took place, aimed at stabilizing the situation, preventing new escalation and the creation of conditions conducive to the advancement of the negotiation process. As an outcome of those meetings, it was emphasized that it is necessary to settle the conflict exclusively through peaceful means, to strictly adhere to the 1994-1995 trilateral ceasefire agreements, which have no time limitations. It was agreed to establish in the shortest possible time an investigation mechanism for ceasefire violations and to expand the capacities of the team of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office.

However, Azerbaijan refused to implement the reached agreements and found itself in isolation by opposing the international community.

The highest leadership of Azerbaijan openly lies when it claims that the Co-Chair countries allegedly recognize Nagorno-Karabakh as part of Azerbaijan. It pretends as if it does not understand what the Co-Chair countries are referring to when they say that the people of Nagorno-Karabakh should implement its right to self-determination through the legally binding free expression of will. Armenia shares the same approach: indeed, the final legal status of Nagorno-Karabakh should be determined by the people of Artsakh. That forgery of Baku exposes the failure of the policy of Azerbaijan. After failing in the negotiation process Baku resorted to the military solution but failed again.

The April war once again vividly proved that Artsakh can never be part of Azerbaijan under any status, and that the implementation of the right of the people of Artsakh to self-determination is irreversible.

In response to Azerbaijan's continuous threats to use force, the international community clearly warns that it will not be tolerated.

As a guarantor of Artsakh's security, Armenia will ensure the safety of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh. Together with the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries, we will continue the efforts aimed at the exclusively peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.